

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-15 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 SS-15

SPC-03 AGR-20 DRC-01 /162 W  
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P 282230Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8216

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 7362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: A. MEXICO 6818 B. MEXICO 7296 C. STATE 192744  
D. MEXICO 7162

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA HAD LENGTHY BREAKFAST CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 28, WITH PRIMARY PURPOSE OF FOLLOWING UP ON SEPTEMBER 11 PRESIDENTIAL DEMARCH RE EXPANDED ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. ALSO PARTICIPATING WERE DCM DEAN, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSALES MIRANDA, DEPUTY DEA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR HEATH, AND POLITICAL OFFICER ALBERTI. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED: EXPANDED US OF HELICOPTERS; "COMPASS TRIP"; EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AND STATIONING OF MFJP AGENTS IN U.S.; HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT; USE OF ARMY IN ROADBLOCKS; IMPORTANCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTITUDE; UPGRADING OF COOPERATION ALONG BORDER; OBTAINING FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON KNOWN TRAFFICKERS FROM MEXICAN BANKS; AND THE FORTHCOMING OCTOBER 28-29 MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICAN ATTORNEYS GENERAL. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR OPENED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO HIS EARLIER TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (MEXICO 6818). OJEDA  
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PAULLADA SIEZED INITIATIVE IMMEDIATELY AND SAID THAT GOM WAS

PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH EXPANDED HELICOPTER PROGRA, AS OUTLINED IN AMBASSADOR'S MEMORANDUM. HE SAID HE PREPARED SELECT TWELVE CIVILIAN PILOTS TO MAN THE FOUR ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS AND SUGGESTED THAT WE WORK OUT PROGRAM TO TRAIN THEM DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN ORDER TO HAVE THEM READY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN JANUARY 1974. HE INDICATED HE HOPED TRAINING DETAILS WOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO HIS LATE-OCTOBER MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON. AN EXPERIENCED LIGHT AIRCRAFT SPOTTER PILOT WILL ALSO FLY IN EACH HELICOPTER AS COPILOT. THE REMAINING PASSENGERS IN EACH AIRCRAFT WILL BE ONE OR TWO MFJP AGENTS, PLUS A NUMBER OF SOLDIERS TO CARRY OUT CROP DESTRUCTION. ATTORNEY GENERAL INDICATED THAT GOM WOULD BE READY FOR FURTHER EXPANDED HELICOPTER PROGRAM FOR SUBSEQUENT POPPY GROWING SEASON. HIS ATTITUDE APPEARED MATTER-OF-FACT, AS THROUGH THE PROGRAM WAS ALREADY A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND COULD ONLY BE A SUCCESS.

2. ON "COMPAS TRIP", ATTORNEY GENERAL'S IDEAS SEEMED LESS CRYSTALLIZED, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WAS READY TO TRY THE TECHNIQUE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS IN ONE AIRCRAFT, AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM IF THE TRIAL PROVED SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONSULTING THE MEXICAN SPACE COMMISSION (CONEE), WHICH HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN REMOTE SENSING, HIGH-ALTITUDE PHOTOGRAPHY, ETC., AND IMPLIED THAT HIS IDEAS WOULD BE MORE WELL FORMULATED AND DETAILED FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF CONEE'S COMMENTS.

3. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON GIUSEPPE CATANIA AND RECENT U.S. SEIZURES ALONG BORDER, OJEDA HIMSELF BROUGHT UP THE NEED FOR A BETTER EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE BETWEEN MFJP AND DEA. HE SAID THE GOM WOULD FIND USEFUL ANY U.S.-GENERATED INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO MEXICO, EVEN THAT OBTAINED FROM APPARENTLY SMALL CASES. WE OF COURSE AGREED, AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR BROADER EXCHANGE AND UTILIZATION OF INTELLIGENCE. CONCERNING THE STATIONING OF MFJP AGENTS IN U.S. (WHICH WE BROUGHT UP IN THIS CONNECTION), ATTORNEY GENERAL APPEARED POSITIVE, SAYING THAT HE SAW NO NEED FOR A WASHINGTON-BASED ATTACHE BUT AGREEING THAT THE STATIONING OF A FEW MEXICAN AGENTS ON U.S. SIDE OF BORDER COULD BE USEFUL.

4. DISCUSSION OF LONG-STANDING HERBICIDE RESERCH PROPOSAL WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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INCONCLUSIVE, WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL EMPHASIZING NEED FOR TOTALLY SELECTIVE HERBICIDE WHICH WOULD NOT POSE THREAT TO ADJACENT CROPS OR TO ECOLOGICAL CYCLE IN GENERAL. WE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO OUR PROPOOSAL THIS WOULD BE DETERMINED ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS BY MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS BEFORE ANY OPERATIONAL USE OF THE HERBICIDE WOULD BE MADE.

5. ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS ASKED IF ARMY WAS USEFUL IN ESTABLISHING

ROADBLOCKS, ESPECIALLY ON ROADS OUT OF OPIUM-PRODUCING AREAS DURING HARVEST SEASON. OJEDA REPLIED THAT ARMY CERTAINLY DID DO GOOD WORK IN SETTING UP ROADBLOCKS, BUT THAT THESE WERE OF USE PRIMARILY FOR BULKY MARIJUANA SHIPMENTS. OPIUM GUM IS CARRIED IN SMALL, ONE OR TWO KILO BALLS WHICH CAN BE PUT ALMOST ANYWHERE AND WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION. HENCE ROADBLOCKS IN OPIUM-PRODUCING AREAS ARE OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE.

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6. AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT HE HAD HEARD PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HERMOSILLO AND CULICAN WAS THAT THE "ESTABLISHMENT" IN HERMOSILLO WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO NARCOTICS AND HENCE RAN A RELATIVELY CLEAN CITY; WHILE IN CULIACAN EVEN THE BEST FAMILIES ARE IN THE DRUG TRADE AND HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS, AND THAT CITY IS NOTORIOUS AS PROBABLY MEXICO'S LEADING NARCOTICS CENTER. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AGREED COMPLETELY, SAYING THAT MUCH OF THE ANTI-DRUG EFFORT DEPENDED ON LOCAL ATTITUDES AND FOR THAT REASON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM WAS VERY IMPORTANT. HE NOTED THAT LAST SEASON'S ERADICATION PROGRAM, WHOSE SCOPE WAS HELPED GREATLY BY THE USE OF U.S-PROVIDED HELICOPTERS, HAD PRODUCED AN AWARENESS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN MANY LOCALITIES WHICH HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN POPPY GROWING FOR MANY YEARS AND HITHERTO HAD PAID NO ATTENTION TO MEXICAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT A MARKED DIMINUTION IN POPPY PLANTINGS WAS NOTICABLE IN THESE AREAS (ALTHOUGH OF COURSE POPPY ACREAGE HAD INCREASED IN OTHER AREAS, LESS HEAVILY

IMPACTED BY ERADICATION PROGRAM).

7. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MADE POINT OF TELLING OJEDA HOW PLEASED U.S. AUTHORITIES WERE WITH EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS SHOWN BY FEDERAL ATTORNEY IN CHARGE ANTI-DRUG PROGRAM IN NUEVO LAREDO BORDER AREA, DEL TOTO. OJEDA HEARTILY AGREED, REMARKING THAT DEL TORO HAD MADE OVER 300 CASES IN HIS ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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YEAR'S RESIDENCE IN NUEVO LAREDO, AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF MEXICO'S FINEST ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE IS ALSO UP-GRADING EQUILITY OF ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK ALONG BORDER BY MOVING OTHER GOOD MEN TO BORDER POSTS, SUCH AS PIEDRAS NEGRAS. IN LATER REMARK TO ROSALES MIRANDA, DCM DEAN SAID PEOPLE OF DEL TORO'S CALIBRE WERE ALSO NEEDED IN TIJUANA AND MEXICALI; ROSALES EXPRESSED AGREEMENT, AND INDICATED THAT SUBJECT WAS MUCH ON HIS MIND.

8. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY RAMON BETETA CONCERNING U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ' REQUEST FOR GOM COOPERATION IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM MEXICAN BANKS RELATIVE TO U.S. NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. (MEXICO 7162). OJEDA SAID THAT UNDER MEXICAN LAW IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY ALONE TO OBTAIN THAT INFORMATION, AND THAT ALL SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD GO THROUGH HIM. HE SAID THERE WERE TWO WAYS OF HANDLING THE PRECEDURE: AN INFORMAL REQUEST TO HIM PERSONALLY WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR HIM TO OBTAIN THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON AN "IRREGULAR", CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, BUT THE INFORMATION COULD NOT BE USED OVERTLY AS LEGAL EVIDENCE IN THE U.S.; IF THE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED FOR COURT PURPOSES, THEN THE REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE A FORMAL ONE FROM USG TO MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT, WHICH IN TURN WOULD ASK ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SECURE THE REQUESTED MATERIAL. WE ASSUME IN LATTER CASE PROCESS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO REGULAR DIPLOMATIC REQUESTS FOR OTHER EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENTS.

9. ON HIS OCTOBER 28-29 MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON (MEXICO 7296), OJEDA PAULLADA ASKED HOW MANY MEETINGS THERE WOULD BE, AND HE REQUESTED THAT U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL DECIDE THE AGENDA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE OF COURSE DID NOT KNOW EXACT PLANS, BUT THAT FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL SANCHEZ VARGAS AND U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL HAD THREE WORKING SESSIONS OVER A TWO-DAY PERIOD DURING THEIR SIMILAR WASHINGTON MEETING SOME TWO YEARS AGO. CONCERNING ATTORNEY GENERAL'S QUESTION ON AGENDA, EMBASSY WILL BE SENDING WASHINGTON SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL AND WILL HOPE FOR AN EARLY REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT. OJEDA DID RULE OUT ANY IN DEPTH DISCUSSION OF ILLEGAL ALIEN ISSUE, EXPLAINING THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS MEMBER OF GOM WORKING GROUP ON THIS QUESTION, ITS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS ARE UNDER JURISDICTION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY, WHILE DOMESTIC RAMIFICATIONS BELONG TO GOBERNACION. OJEDA AGREED CANADIANS

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SHOULD BE REASSURED THAT HIS BILATERAL MEETING DOES NOT  
PREJUDICE PLANNED TRILATERAL MEETING WHICH WE HOPE FOR EARLY IN  
1974 (STATE 192744), AND SAID HE ALSO PLANNED TO TELL THE  
CANADIANS THAT HIS MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON WAS  
SIMPLY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED AND TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF BILATERAL  
ISSUES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NARCOTICS.  
MCBRIDE

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